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| APPLICATION NO.         | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/532,839              | 11/07/2005  | Gert Drolesbeke      | 003D.0060.U1(US)    | 2692             |
| 29683                   | 7590        | 04/14/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP |             |                      | TA, THO DAC         |                  |
| 4 RESEARCH DRIVE        |             |                      |                     |                  |
| SHELTON, CT 06484-6212  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                         |             |                      | 2833                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/532,839             | DROESBEKE, GERT     |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Tho D. Ta              | 2833                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 10 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 April 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/19/05

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 4-8 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 4 and 6, lines 1 and 2, it is unclear as to what "said means" is actually referred to, for purpose of examination, Examiner assumes "said means" as "said means for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of said cable". Claim 7, line 3, the limitation "said first cable connector" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 7, line 4, the limitation "said second cable connector" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 8, lines 1 and 2, the limitation "said system" lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Straub, Jr. et al. (5,971,797).

In regard to claim 1, Straub, Jr. et al. discloses a cable connector assembly comprising cover means 50 and connecting means 16, the cover means 50 comprising wall portions and an opening adapted to accommodate the connecting means 16 characterized in that at least one of the wall portions is at least partially curved for guiding at least one cable.

In regard to claim 3, Straub, Jr. et al. discloses that the at least partially curved wall portion 84 comprises means 22 for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of the cable.

In regard to claim 6, Straub, Jr. et al. discloses that the means 22 comprises a further curvature of the wall portion 32, 34 substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the at least partially curved wall portion 84 (see fig. 2).

In regard to claim 10, Straub, Jr. et al. discloses that cover means 50 comprising an at least partially curved wall portion 84.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

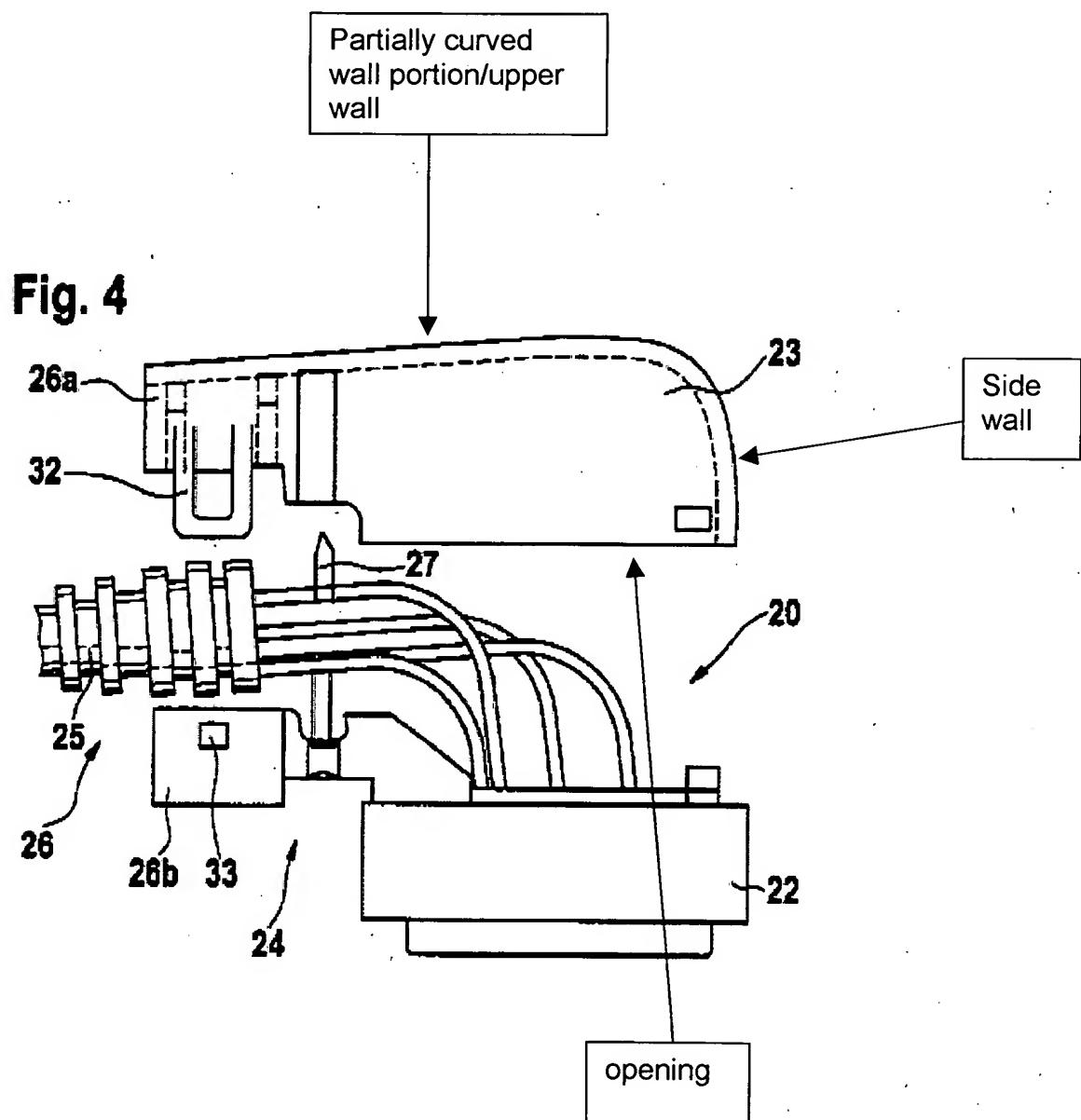
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), ~~b1~~ another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zweigle (6,540,547).

In regard to claim 1, Zweigle discloses a cable connector assembly comprising cover means 23 and connecting means 20, the cover means 23 comprising wall

portions and an opening adapted to accommodate the connecting means 20 characterized in that at least one of the wall portions is at least partially curved for guiding at least one cable.



In regard to claim 2, Zweigle discloses that the wall portions comprise sidewalls determining the opening and an upper wall opposite to the opening which is at least partially curved for guiding at least one cable.

In regard to claim 3, Zweigle discloses that the at least partially curved wall portion comprises means 24 for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of the cable.

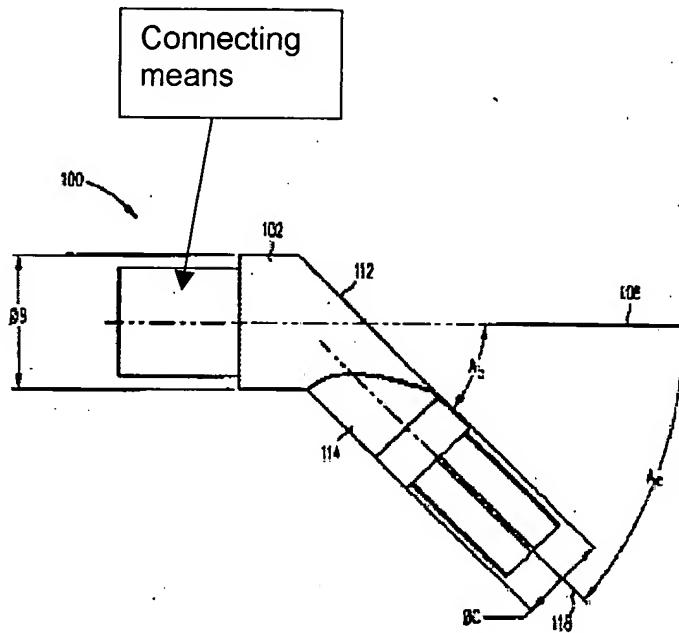
In regard to claim 4, Zweigle discloses that the means 24 comprises cable tie means 27 for attaching the cable to the at least partially curved wall portion.

In regard to claim 5, Zweigle discloses that the cover means 23 comprises means for holding the cable tie means 27, such as a recess 55, slot 11.

In regard to claim 10, Zweigle discloses that cover means 23 comprising an at least partially curved wall portion.

6. Claims 1, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smedberg (6,793,521). ▲

In regard to claim 1, Smedberg discloses a cable connector assembly comprising cover means 102 and connecting means, the cover means 102 comprising wall portions and an opening adapted to accommodate the connecting means characterized in that at least one of the wall portions is at least partially curved for guiding at least one cable.



In regard to claim 7, Smedberg discloses cable connector system comprising at least a first and a second cable connector assembly, wherein the first cable connector comprises the at least partially curved wall portion 112 and the second cable connector comprises a wall portion having a cable opening adapted for directing the cable substantially tangential to the at least partially curved wall portion 112 (see fig. 3).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 8, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the combination of "the means for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of the cable comprises a further curvature of the wall portion substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the at least partially curved wall portion" and "the system comprises further cable connector assemblies having further cables, the at least partially curved wall portion of the first connector assembly guiding at least some of the further cables".

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER